

SCOUTING AND PATROLLING.

1. Q. What is a patrol?
A. A small detachment sent out from a command to effect one or more of the following missions:
(a) To gain information of the enemy or of the terrain,
(b) To kill, capture, or harrass the enemy
(c) To protect the command.
2. Q. How are these patrols named?
A. (a) Reconnoitering, (b) Raiding and (c) Covering, Combat and visting patrols, respectively.
3. Q. What should be the strength of a patrol?
A. Usually from two to eight men, but often larger, depending upon distance it is to go out, mission, enemy, etc. It should be strong enough to accomplish its purpose and no stronger.
4. Q. Who should be selected for members of patrols?
A. Soldiers who have a special training in scouting and patrolling, if possible.
5. Q. Who inspects the patrol and what points does he specially note?
A. The officer sending out a patrol inspects it to see:
 1. If each man and horse (if mounted) is well and strong.
 2. If each man and horse (if mounted) is properly equipped.
 3. If the equipment is in good shape, especially the rifle, pistol and ammunition.
 4. If there are any rattling or glittering objects on the men or horses.
 5. If any horse is of conspicuous color, or neighs.
 6. If the patrol leader and scouts know and understand their orders and instructions.
6. Q. What instructions does the officer sending out the patrol give it?
A.
 1. What is known of the enemy
 2. Mission of the patrol
 3. What other patrols, if any, are being sent out.
 4. The approximate distance and direction it is to go out.
 5. How and where to send messages
 6. When it is to return
 7. Possible movements of his own troops during its absence.
7. Q. What formation does a patrol take?
A. It depends upon the terrain - in a diamond form, line (fan shape) or single file. Whatever the formation, it must be elastic, each member in contact with the leader or some other member of the patrol; permit maxiny observation to front the flanks, and in case of capture, permit at least one man to get away.
8. Q. How does a reconnoitering patrol move?
A. Usually by bounds. A close observation of the ground to the front and flanks precedes each bound, and the distance between successive bounds is passed over rapidly. Whenever a ridge line or wooded area is reached it is first reconnoitered by one or two members of the patrol, covered by the rest of the patrol, the whole patrol not advancing until the feature is found clear of enemy.
9. Q. How does a reconnoitering patrol conduct itself when in the presence of the enemy?
A/ It seeks safety in concealment or flight, fighting only when its mission requires it.
10. Q. What constitutes the most successful reconnaissance?
A. Where the patrol accomplishes its mission and returns without being discovered.

11. Q. When are messages sent back?
A. When the enemy is first discovered that fact is reported promptly. Thereafter when the information sought is found, a message should be sent back, unless the patrol is returning.
12. Q. How are messengers sent?
A. Usually two with the same message by different routes.
13. Q. What should a message contain?
A. 1st, the designation of the patrol, its location, date and hour;
2nd, what, where and when seen in brief, clear language.
3rd, what the patrol is going to do next.
4th, signature
5th, a sketch on the back of the message when possible.